

41. The expandable prosthesis of claim 24, wherein tantalum is utilized for the tubular member.

42. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein tantalum is utilized for the tubular prosthesis.

43. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein tantalum is utilized for the intraluminal vascular graft.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 14, insert --The government of the United States of America retains a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license in this invention for all governmental purposes, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 100.6(b)(2)--

On page 19, line 13, delete "collapse", and insert --collapse--.

On page 14, line 16, after "desired", insert --Use of the term "slot" encompasses an opening whose length is substantially greater than its width, such as an elongated oval opening.--

On page 11, line 30, delete "and", and insert --of--.

THE REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3, and 7-11 were rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hammerslag. The Examiner stated that Hammerslag teaches a method "which comprises the steps of: disposing a thin-walled tubular graft on a balloon catheter, placing the catheter in the blood vessel, then stretching the graft by inflating the balloon such that the graft remains in place when the balloon is removed.

Claims 13-15, 18-21, 23-27, 29-30, and 33-34 were rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being